

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph 29, beginning at page 12, is amended as follows:

[0029] **Figure 4** shows a flow chart showing one embodiment of a buyer's interaction with the Internet-based auction facility. The buyer locates the site by inputting the auction facility identifier (block 600) into the client program 30 running on client machine 32 (see **Figure 2**) which transmits the auction facility identifier (block 610) through the Internet 34 (See **Figure 1**). The Internet-based auction facility receives the transmission and (block 620) a listing server 16 (see **Figure 1**) generates a broad list of available categories of items stored in items table 42 (see **Figure 2**) for the buyer to select from. The auction facility 10 (block 630) transmits the category list and transmits an interface, which can be presented by a page server 12 (see **Figure 1**), to allow the buyer to enter search criteria which may be independent of the category list. The buyer selects a category preference from the category list or generates a search criteria (block 640). The buyer then transmits (block 650) the category preference or search criteria, again, through the Internet 34 (see **Figure 1**). Upon receipt of the category preference or search criteria, the auction facility uses a search server 20 (see **Figure 1**) to generate an item index page of relevant offerings including visual indicators displayed in respect to items in which the seller is allowing a buyer to buy the item at a pre-auction seller determined price (block 660). The item index page is transmitted to the buyer (block 680). After receiving the item index page (block 670), the buyer generates a request for

an item to purchase or bid on. Picture servers 14 (see **Figure 1**) can also be used to show the buyer pictures (if available) of the item. The buyer's request is then transmitted (block ~~20~~ 200).

Paragraph 36, beginning at page 16, is amended as follows:

[0036] **Figure 6** provides an exemplary embodiment of the user interface 500 created at block 110 in **Figure 3** to relay offering options to the seller and collect information on the seller's item. The user interface 500 includes a description (513) that describes an exemplary "Buy It Now" feature that provides gives the seller the option to allow a buyer to buy the item at a pre-auction seller determined price 514.